

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the objections contained in the Office Action of December 16, 2004 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's indication of the allowability of claims 1-12 is gratefully acknowledged.

The Examiner objected to the claims, however, as failing to conform with current U.S. practice. This position by the Examiner is respectfully traversed.


As an initial point, the objections raised by the Examiner have been corrected by the above amendments. The objections to claim 1 are formal and do not rise to the level of the claims being indefinite. Thus, these changes have not been made for reasons related to the patentability of the claim. This is further clear from the indication of allowable subject matter. It is submitted that the claims as originally submitted were in fact clear and definite with respect to the scope of the claimed subject matter.

The Examiner's objection to claims 2 and 3 as being written in shorthand is respectfully traversed. To the extent that they are written in shorthand, it is submitted that such is appropriate. While the claims have been amended to write out all of the limitations referenced in the claim, it is submitted that it is usually easier to refer to prior limitations in the shorthand fashion referenced in the claims than by complete reference to the prior limitations. In any case, both original claims 2 and 3 and the claims as now presented are clear and definite.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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